transfer there is no major departure from the existing practice and were given effect only after the Deputy Conservator discussed the postings with Unions having modality in the Marine Department.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f). Only one Union namely, Cochin Port Employees' Organisation stated agaitation against the transfer and postings. The agitation has been called offf on 3rd November, 1996 following discussion between the concerned Union and the Chairman of Cochin Port Trust.

Defence Talks at Ministerial Level

2294. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the recent defence talks at ministerial level with Russia, Germany and U.S. officials regarding India's security partnership in the post-cold war world;

(b) whether India is seriously taking its relationship with Russia, much as the emerging relations with the United States; and

(c) if so, the latest stand of Russia on the transfer of cryogenic engine technology for India's rocket programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) . (a) and (b). During the visit of the Russian Defence Minister to India in October, 1996, discussions were held by the two sides in the context of furthering and enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries. An Agreement on Service-to-Service cooperation between the two countries was also signed. This Agreement provides for cooperation in the field of training, visits of Military Specialists to each other's country, preparation of programmes of participation in joint military exercises, participation in seminars/symposia and exchange of good-will visits.

The ministerial level discussions with the German Defence Minister and official level discussions with the US delegation in October, 1996 provided an opportunity for exchange of views on security related issues and global developments.

(c) The issue of cryogenic technology transfer was not discussed during the visit of the Russian Defence Minister to India in October, 1996.

Primary Health Centres in A.P.

2295. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged Union Government to provide funds for construction of 300 PHC to complete the project;

(b) if so, the total allocation made by Union Government and how much has been utilised by State Government; and

(c) the total allocation made during 1996-97 for this purpose by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No specific proposal has been received from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh requesting for funds for construction of 300 PHC buildings.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Voting Pattern in US Security Council Election

2296. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed their missions abroad to furnish their assessment regarding pattern of voting in the election for non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council;

(b) if so, the number of such assessments received and the nature thereof;

(c) the advice given by Indian delegate in U.N.O. before the election;

(d) whether Indian ambassadors, stationed in the countries, which voted in the election, had sent any report regarding the election; and

(e) if so, the main conclusions arrived at by the Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (e). Indian Ambassadors and High Commissioners abroad had been directed to maintain contact, at the highest levels, with the countries of their accreditation and concurrent accreditation, in order to obtain their support for our candidature. They were also asked to transmit the responses received both to the Ministry and to the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in New York. While a number of indications of support were received, the election was conducted through secret ballot and voting intentions in many cases were not fully disclosed. At the time of going in for elections, reconfirmations of assurances of support extended by individual countries to our Heads of Missions and additional confirmations received from the Permanent Representatives of other countries to the United Nations, suggested that Indian candidature had a good level of support. This was the general expectation till the point of voting. It was decided to continue with the contest as that demonstrated belief in our credentials and the will to pursue them.